cash income is gross cash income less all cash expenses such as for feed, seed, fertilizer, property taxes, interest on debt, wages to hired labor, contract labor and rent to non-operator landlords. 4) Net farm income is gross farm income less cash expenses and non-cash expenses, such as capital consumption, perquisites to hired labor, and farm household expenses. 5) Net farm income is a longer-term measure of the ability of the farm to survive as a viable income-earning business. 6) Net cash income is a shorter-term measure of cash flow.

Floodplain—The lowland that borders a stream or river and is found outside of the floodway. It is usually dry, but subject to flooding.

Fluvial—Pertaining to rivers or streams.

Flyway—A general term used to describe common migrating patterns among different bird species, based on definite geographic regions.

Groundwater—Water in the porous rocks and soils of the Earth's crust; a large proportion of the total supply of fresh water.

Herbicide—A type of pesticide used to kill or control vegetation.

Hispanic or Latino Origin—A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Hydrology—The study of the distribution, movement, and chemical makeup of surface and ground waters.

Introduced Species—Species that have evolved elsewhere and have been transported and purposely or accidentally disseminated by humans. Other terms used to describe these species are alien, exotic, nonnative, and non-indigenous.

Invasive Species—A species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the economy, environmental, or human health.

Karst—A type of topography formed by the dissolution of carbonate rocks and characterized by caves, sinkholes, and underground drainage.

Low-income—Individuals or households falling below the poverty threshold.

Median Household Income—The income level which divides the income distribution of all of the households in a given area into two equal groups; half of the households having incomes above the median, and half having incomes below the median.

Minority population—A population composed of a minority group and exceeding 50 percent of the population in an area or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population.

Mitigation—A method or action to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts.

Native Species —A species that occurs naturally in a given area or region without deliberate assistance by humans.

Nutrient—Usually nitrogen or phosphorus. Excessive inputs of a nutrient can stimulate algal growth. Sources of nutrients include runoff from fields and pastures, discharges from septic tanks and feedlots, and emissions from combustion.

Overland Flow— The flow of non-infiltrating precipitation over land surface toward stream channels (once water enters the stream or channel, it is considered runoff).

Ozone—A highly reactive molecule composed of three oxygen atoms. Environmentally, ozone is important in two completely separate contexts—one, as a naturally occurring screen of harmful radiation in the outer atmosphere (i.e., stratospheric ozone), and two, as a component of polluting smog formed from emissions resulting from human activities (i.e., urban smog). In the stratosphere 7 to 10 miles above the Earth, naturally occurring ozone acts to shield the Earth from harmful radiation.

Particulate Matter—Air pollutants, including dust, soot, dirt, smoke, and liquid droplets directly emitted into the air by sources such as factories, power plants, cars, construction activity, fires, and natural windblown dust.

Pastureland—A land use/land cover category of land managed primarily for the production of introduced forage plants for livestock grazing. For the Natural Resource Inventory, this includes land that has a vegetative cover of grasses, legumes, and/or forbs, regardless of whether or not it is being grazed by livestock.

Perquisite—A payment or profit received in addition to a regular wage or salary.

Pesticide—Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest (i.e., insects, animals, weeds, fungi, or microorganisms). The term pesticide refers to insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and various other substances used to control pests.

Poverty area—An area in which at least 20 percent of the residents are below the poverty threshold.

Poverty Thresholds—For statistical purposes (e.g., counting the poor population), the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of annual income levels (poverty thresholds) that represent a Federal Government estimate of the point below which a household of a given size has cash income insufficient to meet minimal food and other basic needs. They were developed in the 1960s, based largely on estimates of the minimal cost of food needs, to measure changes in the poor population. The thresholds differ by household size and are adjusted annually for overall inflation.

Race—Classification which includes White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Rangeland—A land use/land cover category of land on which the potential vegetation is composed principally of native grasses, grasslike plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland. Under the Natural Resource Inventory definition, this would include areas where introduced hardy and persistent grasses, such as crested wheatgrass, are planted and such practices as deferred grazing, burning, chaining, and rotational grazing are used, with little or no chemicals or fertilizer being applied.

Riparian Areas—Lands adjacent to rivers and streams that are influenced by flooding. They are considered transition zones between the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem that are connected by direct land-water interaction.

Runoff—Non-infiltrating precipitation entering a stream or other conveyance channel.

Sediment—Any finely divided organic and/or mineral matter derived from rock or biological sources that have been transported and deposited by water or air.

Sedimentation—The process of depositing sediment from suspension in water.

Threatened Species—A species of plant or animal that is federally designated as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)—A TMDL identifies the amount of a specific pollutant or property of a pollutant, from a point source ("end of the pipe"), a non-point source (from runoff), and natural background sources, including a margin of safety, that may be discharged to a water body and still ensure that the water body attains water quality standards.

Turbidity—A measure of water cloudiness which is caused by sediments or other particles suspended in the water column.

Watershed—The land across and under which water flows on its way to a stream, river, lake, or other water body; the surface drainage area above a specified point on a stream.

Wetlands—Areas that are inundated or saturated with surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil, including swamps, marshes, bogs, and other similar areas.

Woodland—A land cover/land use category that includes wooded pastureland and wooded non-pastureland.

10.0 REFERENCES

- 7 CFR parts 799 et seq. 2007. "Environmental Quality and Related Environmental Concerns—Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act." Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture. *Code of Federal Regulations*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. January 1. Accessed January 29, 2007.
- 33 CFR part 328.3. 2006. "Definitions." Navigation and Navigable Waters. Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army. *Code of Federal Regulations*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. July 1. Accessed August 1, 2006.
- 36 CFR parts 62.1–62.9. 2006. "National Natural Landmark Program." Parks, Forests, and Public Property. National Park Service, Department of the Interior. *Code of Federal Regulations*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. July 1. Accessed August 1, 2006.
- 36 CFR parts 800.3–800.13. 2006. "Subpart B—The Section 106 Process." Protection of Historic Properties. Parks, Forests, and Public Property. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. *Code of Federal Regulations*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. July 1. Accessed August 1, 2006.
- 40 CFR parts 1500 et seq. 2006. "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act." Chapter 5. Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President. *Code of Federal Regulations*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. July 1. Accessed August 1, 2006.
- 35 FR 4247. 1977. Executive Order 11514, as amended. "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality." *Federal Register*. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Available via http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11514.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 42 FR 26951. 1979. Executive Order 11988, as amended. "Floodplain Management." Federal Register. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Available via http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11988.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 59 FR 32. 1995. Executive Order 12898, as amended. "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." *Federal Register*. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Available via http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/1994.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 7 USC parts 7201 et seq. 1998. "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.

- 16 USC part 470. 2000. "National Historic Preservation Act of 1966," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 16 USC parts 1131 et seq. 1964. "National Wilderness Preservation System." *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed October 17, 2006.
- 16 USC parts 1271–1287. 1968. "Wild and Scenic Rivers," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 16 USC parts 1531 et seq. 1988. "Endangered Species Act of 1973," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 16 USC part 3831. 1996. "Conservation Reserve," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 16 USC parts 4301 et seq. 1988. "Federal Cave Resources Protection Act." *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- 33 USC parts 1251 et seq. 2000. "Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972," commonly referred to as the "Clean Water Act," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 42 USC parts 4321 et seq. 2000. "National Environmental Policy Act of 1969," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- 42 USC parts 7401 et seq. 1999. "Clean Air Act," as amended. *United States Code*. U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access. Available via http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html. Accessed February 23, 2006.
- ADEQ. 2005. Arkansas Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Air Division—Planning and Air Quality Analysis Branch. Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Available via http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/branch_planning/monitoring.htm. Accessed November 17, 2006.
- ADEQ. 2004. 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Reports and Data. Water Division. Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Available via http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/reports_data.htm. Accessed March 5, 2007.
- ADEQ. 2002. 2002 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Reports and Data. Water Division. Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Available via http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/reports_data.htm. Accessed March 5, 2007.

- AGFC. 2006a. Hunting Feral "Wild" Hogs. Rules and Regulations. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/rules_regs/hunting_regs_feral.html. Accessed August 30, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006b. Hunting in Arkansas. License Information. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/licenses/hunting_licenses.html#Migratory. Accessed August 31, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006c. Waterfowl Information. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/waterfowl/index.html. Accessed August 31, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006c. Fisheries District Personnel and Map. Fish Management. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/fishing_ol.html. Accessed September 7, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006d. Arkansas Fishing Guide Book—2006. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/rules_regs/fishing_regs.html. Accessed September 8, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006e. Largemouth Bass Virus Facts. Fish Health. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/fishing/fishhealth_lmbv.html. Accessed September 6, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006f. Threatened and Endangered Species—Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/critters/endangered_species_p3.html. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- AGFC. 2006g. Wildlife Management Areas. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/wma_lakes/wma_all.html. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- AGFC. 2005a. "Arkansas Hunting Guidebook 2005–2006." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/pdf/05-06_guidebook.pdf. Accessed August 16, 2006.
- AGFC. 2005b. "2004 Black Bear Harvest Report." Wildlife Management Division, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/2004_black_bear_harvest_report.pdf. Accessed August 21, 2006.
- AGFC. 2005c. Arkansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.wildlifearkansas.com/strategy.html. Accessed August 31, 2006.
- AGFC. 2004. "2004–2005 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Deer Season Summary." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/deer_report_04-05.pdf. Accessed August 17, 2006.
- AGFC. 2001a. "2001 Spring Season Arkansas Wild Turkey Harvest Report." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/pdf/2001Spring_Turkey_ Harvest.pdf. August. Accessed August 22, 2006.

- AGFC 2001b. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Wild Turkey Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/critters/final_wild_turkey_plan.pdf. August 6. Accessed August 21, 2006.
- AGFC. 2001c. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Furbearer Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/critters/furbearer_mgmt_plan_2001.pdf. August 9. Accessed August 22, 2006.
- AGFC. 2001d. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Quail Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/critters/final_quail_plan.pdf. May 24. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- AGFC. 2001e. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Rabbit Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/critters/final_rabbit_plan.pdf. May 24. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- AGFC. 2001f. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Squirrel Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/critters/final squirrel plan.pdf. May 24. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- AGFC. 1999. "Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Strategic Deer Management Plan." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.com/pdf/deer_mgmt_plan_99.pdf. August 4. Accessed August 16, 2006.
- AHPP. 2006. Annual Report and Action Plan. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Available via http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/annual-report/annual-reports/2006.asp. Accessed December 27, 2006.
- AHPP. 2004. Federally Recognized Tribes Associated with Arkansas. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Available via http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/archaeology-section106/tribes. Accessed December 27, 2006.
- AHPP. 2002. A Foundation for the Future: The Arkansas Historic Preservation Plan, 2002. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Available via http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/pad/stateplans/Arkansas.html. Accessed December 29, 2006.
- AMAWPT. 2006. "Arkansas Hydrogeomorphic Functional Assessment Guidebook." Classification and Characterization of the Wetlands of Arkansas. Ozark Mountain Region. Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team. Available via http://www.mawpt.org/wetlands/classification/project.asp. Accessed September 21, 2006.
- AMAWPT. 2001. "Arkansas Wetlands Gain and Loss." Wetlands in Arkansas. Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team. Available via http://www.mawpt.org/wetlands/loss_gain.asp. Accessed September 21, 2006.
- Anderson, S. and R. Masters. 2004. Water Resources Series: Riparian Forest Buffers. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University. Available via http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-255. Accessed July 13, 2006.

- ANHC. 2006a. Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*). Federally Listed Animal Species Profiles. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage.com/program/rare-species/federally-listed/animal-profiles/. Accessed September 11, 2006.
- ANHC. 2006b. Ozark Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*). Federally Listed Animal Species Profiles. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage.com/program/rare-species/federally-listed/animal-profiles/. Accessed September 11, 2006.
- ANHC. 2006c. Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*). Federally Listed Animal Species Profiles. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage. com/program/rare-species/federally-listed/animal-profiles/. Accessed September 11, 2006.
- ANHC. 2006d. Natural Areas. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage.com/. Accessed September 7, 2006.
- ANHC. 2005a. Animal Species of Special Concern in Arkansas. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage.com/program/rare-species/. Accessed September 8, 2006.
- ANHC. 2005b. Plant Species of Special Concern in Arkansas. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Available via http://www.naturalheritage.com/program/rare-species/. Accessed September 8, 2006.
- ANRC. 2006. Arkansas Ground Water Protection and Management Report for 2005. Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Available via http://www.aswcc.arkansas.gov/Groundwater.html. January. Accessed March 1, 2007.
- Arkansas Constitutional Amendment 35. 1944. "Wildlife—Conservation—Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission." *Constitution of the State of Arkansas of 1874*. Available via http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/ar-constitution/arconst/arconst.htm Accessed August 15, 2006.
- Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. 2003. Maps. Ozarks Region. Available via http://www.arkansas.com/. Accessed March 6, 2007.
- Arkansas General Assembly. 1989. Arkansas Cave Resources Protection Act. Act 523, 77th
 General Assembly Regular Session. Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research,
 Information Systems Department. Available via http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/default.asp.
 Accessed September 12, 2006.
- BEA. 2006. CA45—Farm Income and Expenses. Interactive Tables. Local Area Personal Income. Regional Economic Accounts. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. Available via http://www.bea.gov/. April. Accessed August 16, 2006.
- BLS. 2006. Customized Table. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Available via http://www.bls.gov/data/. Accessed August 14, 2006.

- Burger, L.D., L.W. Burger, Jr., and J. Faaborg. 1994. "Effects of prairie fragmentation on predation on artificial nests." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 58:249–254.
- Central Arkansas Library System. 2006. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture. Available via http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx. Accessed January 29, 2007.
- CEQ. 1997a. "Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act." Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President. Available via http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/guidance.html. December 10. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- CEQ. 1997b. "Considering Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act." Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President. Available http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm. January. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- Davis, R.K., J.V. Brahana, and J.S. Johnston. 2000. Ground Water in Northwest Arkansas:

 Minimizing Nutrient Contamination from Non-Point Sources in Karst Terrane. Final
 Report for Tasks 94-300 and 95-300. Federal Assistance Project Nos. C9996103-02 and
 C9996102-03. Publication No. MSC-288. Arkansas Water Resources Center. Available
 via http://www.uark.edu/depts/awrc/Publications/MSC-288.pdf. Accessed September 20,
 2006.
- EPA. 2007a. "2004 Section 303(d) List Fact Sheet for Arkansas." Total Maximum Daily Loads. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Availabale via http://oaspub.epa.gov/waters/state_rept.control?p_state=AR. Accessed March 1, 2007.
- EPA. 2007b. Monitor Data Queries. Air Data. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://www.epa.gov/aqspubl1/monitor.html. Accessed February 23, 2007.
- EPA. 2006a. Sole Source Aquifier Protection Program Overview. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/swp/ssa.html. Accessed March 31, 2006.
- EPA. 2006b. Designated Sole Source Aquifers in Region VI. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://www.epa.gov/safewater/swp/ssa/reg6.html. Accessed August 29, 2006.
- EPA. 2006c. Non-Attainment Area Maps Criteria Air Pollutants. Geographic Area: Arkansas. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://www.epa.gov/air/data/nonat.html?st~AR~Arkansas Accessed November 17, 2006.
- EPA. 2006d. National Menu of Stormwater Best Management Practices. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm. Accessed August 3, 2006.
- EPA. 2005. Overview of Current Total Maximum Daily Load—TMDL—Program and Regulations. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available via http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/overviewfs.html. Accessed January 19, 2006.

- Feather, P., D. Hellerstein, and L. Hansen. 1999. "Economic Valuation of Environmental Benefits and the Targeting of Conservation Programs: The Case of the CRP." *Agricultural Economic Report* 778. Resource Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/ConservationAndEnvironment/morereading.htm. April. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- FS. 2006. Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. U.S. Forest Service. Available via http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- FS. 1999. Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment: Aquatic Conditions. General Technical Report SRS-33. Southern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service. Available via http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/viewpub.jsp?index=2037. Accessed February 16, 2007.
- FSA. 2006a. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Questions & Answers. Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crepqnas.htm. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- FSA. 2006b. Conservation Reserve Program Monthly Summary—December 2006. CRP Contract Summary and Statistics. Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=cep-st. Accessed February 15, 2007.
- FSA. 2003a. Conservation Reserve Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/epb/environmental_archives.htm. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- FSA. 2003b. Agricultural Resource Conservation Program for the State and County Offices. Rev. 4. Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Washington, DC. May 1. 152 pp. and 48 exhibits.
- FSA. 1997. Farm Service Agency Strategic Plan 1997–2002. Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/stratplans/fsastrat.pdf. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- FWS 2007a. Personal Communication. Jennifer Ballard. Arkansas Ecological Field Office. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thursday, March 8, 2007.
- FWS. 2007b. Logan Cave National Wildlife Refuge. America's National Wildlife Refuge System. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://www.fws.gov/refuges/. Accessed March 7, 2007.
- FWS. 2006a. Arkansas Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/TESSWebpageUsaLists?state=all. September 8. Accessed September 8, 2006.
- FWS. 2006b. Arkansas-Southeast Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://www.fws.gov/southeast/maps/ar.html. Accessed August 28, 2006.

- FWS. 2005a. National Fish Hatcheries. Arkansas. Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://www.fws.gov/southeast/fisheries/hatcheryindex.html. Accessed September 8, 2006.
- FWS. 2005b. Arkansas Darter (*Etheostoma cragini*). Species Assessment and Listing Priority Assignment Form. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/candforms_pdf/r6/E06H_V01.pdf. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- FWS. 2004. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species Assessment and Listing Priority Assignment Form: Neosho Mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://ecos.fws.gov/species_profile/servlet/gov.doi.species_profile.servlets.SpeciesProfile?spcode=F00F. Accessed March 12, 2007.
- FWS. 2003. Endangered Species: Missouri Bladderpod (*Lesquerella filiformis*). Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/mo blad/bladderp fs.html. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- FWS. 1993a. Recovery Plan for the Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus aculabrum*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plans/1996/961030.pdf Accessed March 28, 2007.
- FWS. 1993b. Florida Panther (Felis concolor coryi) Species Account. Endangered and Threatened Species of the Southeastern United States (The Red Book) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4. Available via http://www.fws.gov/endangered/i/a/saa05.html. Accessed March 27, 2007.
- FWS. 1983. *The Indiana Bat Recovery Plan*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Available via http://ecos.fws.gov/species_profile/servlet/gov.doi.species_profile.servlets.SpeciesProfile ?spcode=A000. Accessed March 12, 2007.
- FWS and USCB. 2001. *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: Arkansas*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- Gates, J.E. and L.W. Gysel. 1978. "Avian nest dispersion and fledgling success in field-forest ecotones." *Ecology* 59:871–883.
- Green, T. 2007. Personal communication between T. Green, Director, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, and J. Braun, Cultural Resource Specialist, Portage. January 23.
- Hines, F., J. Sommer, and M. Petrulis. 1991. "How the CRP affects local economies—Conservation Reserve Program affects farmers and farm communities—U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service report." *Agricultural Outlook*. Available via http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m3778/is_1991_Sept/ai_12059657. September. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- Klapproth, J.C., and J.E. Johnson. 2000. "Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: Effects on Water Quality." Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication Number 420-151. Available via http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/forestry/420-151/420-151.html Accessed June 27, 2006.

- NPS. 2006. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Intermountain Geographic Resource Information Management, National Park Service. Available via http://imgis.nps.gov/national_historic_trails.html. Accessed August 28, 2006.
- NPS. 2000. Geologic Provinces of the United States. Available http://www2.nature.nps.gov/geology/usgsnps/province/province.html. Accessed January 18, 2006.
- NatureServe. 2004. Distribution of Native U.S. Fishes by Watershed. Downloadable animal datasets. NatureServe Central Databases. Available via www.natureserve.org/getData/dataSets/watershedHucs/index.jsp. Accessed September 7, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006a. Conservation of Private Grazing Land. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cpgl/. October 31. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006b. Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/. October 31. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006c. Arkansas 2006 State EQIP Sign-Up and Application Information. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip.html. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006d. FY-2005 Conservation Program Allocations to States by Program. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/2005_allocations/index.html. October 27. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006e. Wetlands Reserve Program. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp.html. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 2006f. 2006 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip.html. Accessed November 22, 2006.
- NRCS. 1994. The Phosphorus Index: A Phosphorus Assessment Tool. Technical Resources.

 Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ECS/nutrient/pindex.html. Accessed January 23, 2006.
- NRHP. 2006. Arkansas State Listing of Historic Places by County. National Register of Historic Places. Available via http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/welcome.html. Accessed December 27, 2006.
- Sutton, Keith. 1998. "The White-Tailed Deer." Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Available via http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/pdf/whitetaildeer_bro.pdf. May. Accessed August 18, 2006.

- University of Arkansas. 2006. Arkansas Air Quality. Division of Agriculture. University of Arkansas. Available via http://www.aragriculture.org/air/default.htm. Accessed March 7, 2007.
- University of Idaho. 2006. The Twelve Soil Orders. Soil Taxonomy. Soil and Land Resources Division. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. University of Idaho. Available via http://soils.ag.uidaho.edu/soilorders/orders.htm. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- USACE. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1 (on-line edition). Environment Laboratory, Waterways Experiment Station, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Available via http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/permit/documents/87manual.pdf. January. Accessed January 24, 2006.
- USCB. 2007. Springdale City, Arkansas. Fact Sheet. American FactFinder. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html. Accessed February 13, 2007.
- USCB. 2001. "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin." Census 2000 Brief. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf. March. Accessed February 24, 2006.
- USCB. 2000a. P1—Persons, P4—Urban and Rural, P6—Race, and P8—Persons of Hispanic Origin. Detailed Tables for Benton, Crawford, and Washington Counties. Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data. Data Sets. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://factfinder.census.gov/. Accessed August 14, 2006.
- USCB. 2000b. P56—Median Household Income in 1999 (Dollars) by Age of Householder, and P87—Poverty Status in 1999 by Age. Detailed Tables for Benton, Crawford, and Washington Counties. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) 100-Percent Data. Data Sets. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://factfinder.census.gov/. Accessed August 14, 2006.
- USCB. 1995. "Poverty Areas." Statistical Brief. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/statbriefs/povarea.html. June. Accessed September 29, 2004.
- USCB. 1990. P1—Persons, P4—Urban and Rural, P6—Race, and P8—Persons of Hispanic Origin. Detailed Tables for Benton, Crawford, and Washington Counties. Census 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1) 100-Percent Data. Data Sets. U.S. Census Bureau. Available via http://factfinder.census.gov/. Accessed August 14, 2006.
- USDA. 2006. Arkansas Land Values and Cash Rents. Economic Data and Farm Numbers. Statistical Bulletin. National Agricultural Statistics Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Arkansas/Publications/Statistical Bulletin/index.asp. August. Accessed August 21, 2006.
- USDA. 2004a. "Volume 1 Chapter 2: Arkansas County Level Data." 2002 Census of Agriculture. National Agricultural Statistics Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/volume1/ar/index2.htm. June. Accessed August 15, 2006.

- USDA. 2004b. "Statewide Summary." Arkansas State and County Profiles. 2002 Census of Agriculture. National Agricultural Statistics Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available via http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/ar/index.htm. June. Accessed April 4, 2006.
- USGS. 2003. Physiographic Regions. A Tapestry of Time and Terrain: The Union of Two Maps—Geology and Topography. U.S. Geological Survey. Available via http://tapestry.usgs.gov/physiogr/physio.html. April 17. Accessed September 12, 2006.
- USGS. 2006. Toxic Substances Hydrology Program. U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Interior. Available via http://toxics.usgs.gov/definitions/eutrophication.html Accessed June 27, 2006.
- Winter, M., D.H. Johnson, and J. Faaborg. 2000. "Evidence for edge effects on multiple levels in tallgrass prairie." *Condor* 102(2):256–266. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. Available via http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/edgeffct/edgeffct.htm. Version 08DEC2000. Accessed July 13, 2006.
- Woods, A.J., T.L. Foti, S.S. Chapman, J.M. Omernik, J.A. Wise, E.O. Murray, W.L. Prior, J.B. Pagan, J.A. Comstock Jr., and M. Radford. 2004. Ecoregions of Arkansas (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs); Reston, Virginia, U.S. Geological Survey (map scale 1:1,000,000). Available via http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/ar_eco.htm. Accessed September 8, 2006.

This page intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A DRAFT CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT FOR THE ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED IN ARKANSAS

This page intentionally left blank.

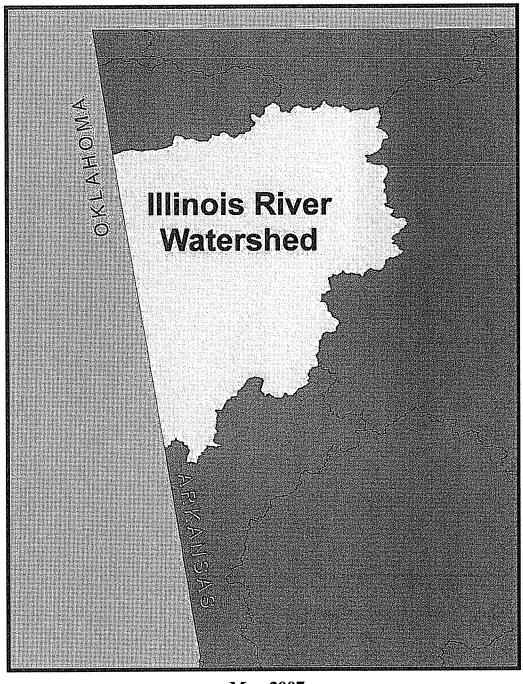
APPENDIX A—CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED PROPOSAL STATE OF ARKANSAS

The following pages of this appendix contains the Draft Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Illinois River CREP Proposal State of Arkansas. This draft proposal is dated May, 2007.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Illinois River CREP Proposal

State of Arkansas

Benton and Washington Counties



May 2007

Section 1 - Abstract

Arkansas has chosen a high priority watershed in the northwestern portion of the State as the focus of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal. This watershed was chosen not only because it is a high priority for the State, but also because the water quality problems and sources of contaminants are representative of their regions and of problems that can be significantly addressed with protection of riparian areas.

This project aims to restore stable riparian vegetation and riparian buffers to these systems and to reduce livestock impacts to floodplains. This will result in less overland flow of pathogens (fecal indicator bacteria), sediments, and phosphorus to the streams and will stabilize the stream banks, resulting in less streambank erosion and subsequent stream sedimentation. This, in turn, will result in improved water quality, lower maintenance requirements to the road and highway system, and will help to preserve existing floodplain pasture.

The Illinois River Watershed is part of a major poultry growing and cattle producing area of the State and the nation. Poultry litter has been applied to the nutrient poor, thin, cherty soils of the area and they now grow luxuriant grass and support an important cattle industry. Excessive buildup of phosphorus over the years has polluted the receiving water bodies to the point they are now considered impaired by nutrients. Phosphorus and pathogenic bacteria now impair many of the area streams including the Illinois River.

The proposed CREP will attempt to protect 15,000 acres of riparian area in the Illinois River Watershed which has a total riparian area of approximately 101,098 acres. Practices to be used include CP22 (woody riparian buffers) and CP29 (native warmseason grass buffers) with modifications. Total project cost is estimated to be \$30,000,000 (\$24,000,000 Federal), 20% of which will be borne by non-federal partners (\$6,000,000 = \$3 mill. cash + \$3 mill. in-kind match).

A major impediment contributing to past failures has been that forested areas along the stream could not be signed up in USDA riparian programs even when they were small components of an otherwise un-forested buffer. Landowners do not want to pay for and maintain a fence at their expense as it crosses through forested areas. In the proposed Arkansas CREP program, monies will be available to pay for fencing and alternative water sources so ranchers fencing livestock out of the stream will still have access to water.

Additionally, strict guidelines concerning the width of riparian buffers sometimes deter otherwise willing landowners if the configuration of the stream is such that they will have trouble maneuvering equipment within the riparian zone or maintaining fences through frequent floods. Another deterrent to participation has been the inflexibility of federal programs concerning management of riparian zones. A state-designed CREP program in conjunction with existing conservation programs (with modifications) will overcome these obstacles.

The State of Arkansas proposes a program that will overcome all of these obstacles and be highly successful. The major components of the Arkansas CREP program will be the same riparian practices that have proven to be successful in Section 319 of the Clean Water Act projects, with some modification. Livestock will be prohibited access to the stream and alternatives will be presented to the producers that provide all the services they were realizing from the stream prior to project implementation.

Agricultural producers in the area have already been subjected to significant regulations relating to the use of poultry litter and nutrient management and further water quality degradation will likely result in increased regulation on the industry. Agriculture is a very important industry to the State and as such, it is critical that we take steps to reduce potential impacts from agricultural practices.

All waters within this segment have been designated as suitable for the propagation of fish and wildlife, primary and secondary contact recreation, as well as, public, industrial and agricultural water supplies (APCEC, 2001). The Illinois River Watershed portion of segment 3J contains 152 stream miles in which 125.1 stream miles were monitored at eight permanent monitoring stations. An additional 8.1 stream miles were evaluated for a total of 133.2 stream miles monitored in the Illinois River watershed. Nonpoint source impacts affecting waters in this segment are primarily from pastureland that is also used for application of poultry litter as fertilizer. In addition, many activities contribute to the destabilization of the streambed and excessive bank erosion, including instream gravel removal, conversion of forest to pasture and removal of riparian buffers for construction and other activities. Road construction and maintenance also contribute to siltation problems.

Table 1 summarizes studies that have found impaired reaches of the Illinois River and its tributaries. In addition, nutrient enrichment of the waterbodies in this watershed is a concern, both from point and nonpoint sources. Known problems below wastewater treatment facilities do occur and are easily documented. However, detecting and determining the extent of impacts of the contributions of nutrients from nonpoint sources is difficult. Land use in the watershed is probably the best indicator of where nutrients have the greatest potential to impact water quality. Potentially, confined animal operations in high concentrations within a watershed can result in application of animal manures at nutrient rates greater than can be assimilated, resulting in nutrients being transported to adjacent streams during storm events. Improper management techniques of the nutrients also result in adjacent streams receiving nutrient inputs during storm events.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) cooperated on a project to collect and analyze water quality samples to estimate nutrient loads for nitrogen and phosphorus for 1997-1999 using regression analysis.

Total estimated phosphorus and nitrogen annual loads for calendar year 1997-1999 using regression techniques on 35 samples were similar to estimated loads derived from integration techniques on 1,033 samples. Nitrogen and phosphorus estimates were higher than for comparable undeveloped watersheds (Green et al, 2001).

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) surveyed macroinvertebrate and fish communities in the Illinois River in 1995-1996 to assess the impact of municipal wastewater treatment facilities on water quality and aquatic life communities. The study also characterized the effects of point source and nonpoint source pollution on seasonal

Page 21 of 30

water quality (ADEQ, 1997). USGS collected periphyton samples at 51 stream sites in the Ozark Plateau to determine the effect of different land uses.

Table 1: Review of Impaired Reaches, Illinois River Watershed

Reach Name	Seg.	Impairment	Impacts	Cause	Source	Comments
Clear Creek	029	Primary Contact (ADEQ,		Pathogens (ADEQ, 2005)	Urban Runoff (ADEQ, 2005)	
Clear Creek, Mud Creek	029	Aquatic Life (ADEQ, 2005 and 1997)		Siltation and Turbidity	Agriculture & Urban Runoff (ADEQ, 2002)	
Muddy Fork	025		Aquatic Life (ADEQ, 1997)		`\	
Illinois River	022, 023		Aquatic Life (ADEQ, 1997)	Habitat Limitations (ADEQ, 1997)		
Osage Creek	930		Aquatic Life (ADEQ, 1997)			Influenced by cold spring water
Spring Creek	931		Aquatic Life (ADEQ, 1997)			Influenced by cold spring water

Results indicate that periphyton communities are affected by natural and land-use related factors, including nutrients, dissolved organic carbon, alkalinity, canopy shading, suspended sediment, embeddedness, stream morphometry, and velocity (Peterson et al., 2002).

Project Area Description

Arkansas has chosen a high priority watershed in the northwestern portion of the State as the focus of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal. This watershed was chosen not only because it is a high priority for the State, but also because the water quality problems and sources of contaminants are representative of their regions and of problems that can be significantly addressed with protection of riparian areas.

The Illinois River Watershed lies within the Ozark Mountains Ecoregion. Land is level to highly dissected and is underlain by cherty limestone. Karst features and clear, spring-fed perennial streams are common. These clear or once-clear rivers and lakes are highly valued by the citizens of Arkansas for recreation and water supply.

This project aims to restore stable riparian vegetation and riparian buffers to these systems and to reduce livestock impacts to floodplains. This will result in less overland flow of pathogens (fecal indicator bacteria), sediments, and phosphorus to the streams and will stabilize the stream banks, resulting in less streambank erosion and subsequent stream sedimentation. This, in turn, will result in improved water quality, lower maintenance requirements to the road and highway system, and will help to preserve existing floodplain pasture.

The Illinois River Watershed is part of a major poultry growing and cattle producing area of the State and the nation. Poultry litter has been applied to the nutrient poor, thin, cherty soils of the area and they now grow luxuriant grass and support an important cattle industry. Excessive buildup of phosphorus over the years has polluted the receiving water bodies to the point they are now considered impaired by nutrients. Phosphorus and pathogenic bacteria now impair many of the area streams including the Illinois River.

The Illinois River Watershed contains approximately 1.1 million acres of which approximately 484,514 acres (44%) are in Arkansas and approximately 615,486 acres (56%) are in Oklahoma. The Illinois River Watershed portion of Water Quality Planning Segment 3J (HUC 11110103) occupies the northwestern corner of Arkansas and covers part of Benton County, a large part of Washington County and a small section of Crawford County. This segment includes the Illinois River and its tributaries within Arkansas. The main tributaries in Arkansas are Osage Creek, Flint Creek and Spring Creek.

The proposed CREP will attempt to protect 15,000 acres of riparian area in the Illinois River Watershed which has a total riparian area of approximately 146,462 acres, of which 60,828 acres require vegetative reestablishment. Practices to be used include CP22 (woody riparian buffers) and CP29 (native warm-season grass buffers) with modifications. Total project cost is estimated to be \$30,000,000, of which 20% will be borne by non-federal partners (\$6,000,000).

Map of the Area

The proposed CREP would focus on the riparian area in the Arkansas portion of the Illinois River Watershed (Figure 1). Riparian protection is critical and one of the most effective strategies to address the water quality issues present in the watershed. The State believes that demonstrating the efficiency of riparian buffers in this high priority watershed is a critical step in reaching our ultimate goal of landowners accepting riparian protection as a standard practice of operation, much like terraces on a sloped field, or septic tanks for a rural residence. Figure 2 depicts the actual project boundary.

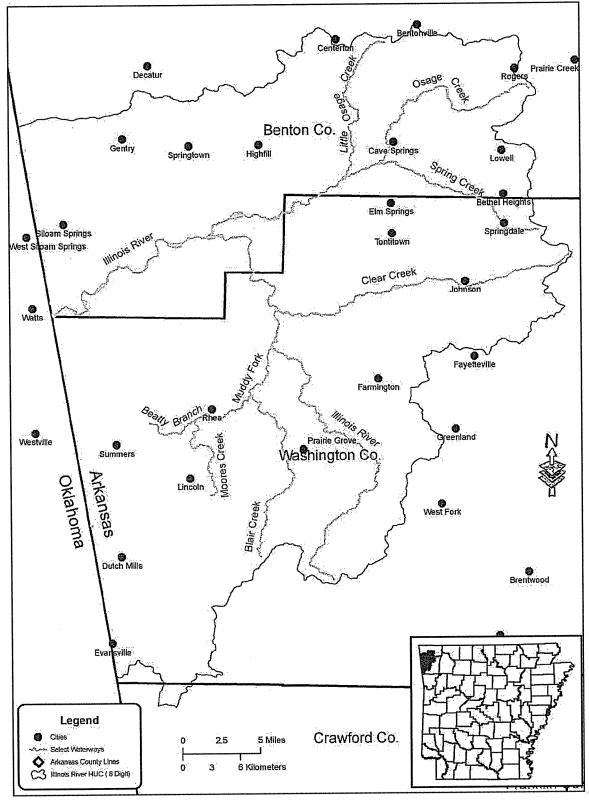
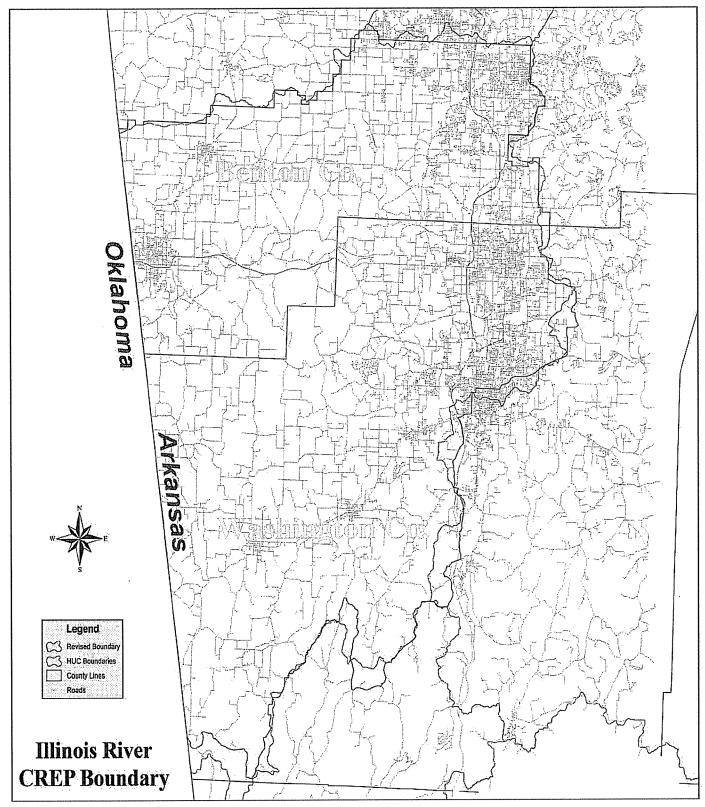


Figure 1: Map of the Illinois River Watershed

Figure 2: Project Boundary within the Illinois River Watershed

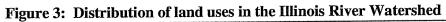


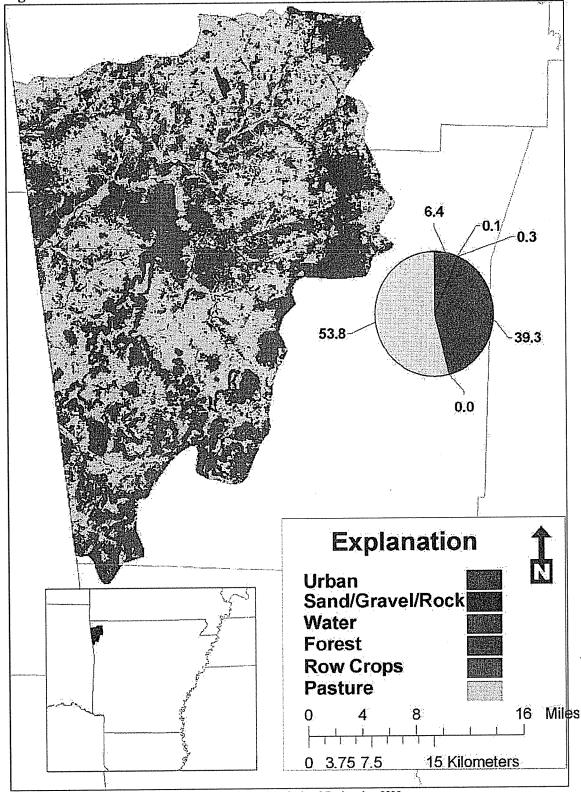
Description of Human Activities and Landuses

The following provide a partial snapshot of land uses in the watershed:

- There are seven drinking water sites in the Arkansas and Oklahoma portions of the watershed (USFS, 1999).
- The population of Washington and Benton counties grew 47% from 1990 to 2000, an increase of more than 100,000 individuals. Washington and Benton counties have continued to grow at a rapid pace from 2000 to 2003. Benton County added 12.1% and Washington County added 7.6% from 2000 to 2003 (University of Arkansas, 2005). As a result, there was significant new construction, including residential, commercial and industrial, roads and other infrastructure. Construction can be found both within municipal boundaries and in rural areas of the watershed where onsite waste disposal is used.
- An estimated 198,000 individuals live in the Arkansas portion of the watershed (Census, 2000).
- 12 municipalities and portions of Washington and Benton counties, as well as, the University of Arkansas are subject to Phase II requirements for a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. With leadership from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, all of these entities have joined together to work with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to provide education and technical assistance.
- Northwest Arkansas produced more broilers in 2002 than any other area of the state, although production in other areas is gaining (NASS, 2002).
- The entire watershed is designated as a nutrient surplus area subject to new regulations for nutrient planning, nutrient application and certification of nutrient planners.
- 53.8% of the land area in the watershed was pasture in 1999 while 39.3% was forest and 6.4% was urban. Nearly one-quarter of the land area changed uses between 1992 and 1999 (CAST, 1999).
- The USFS estimated there were 62,643 acres of riparian areas in its 1999 assessment of aquatic conditions (USFS, 1999). Of these, nearly half were in agricultural use, primarily pasture.
- The USFS estimated there were 272.0 miles of roads in riparian areas in the Illinois River watershed in 1999, including 113.4 miles of unpaved roads (USFS, 1999).
- The watershed provides habitat for four federally protected species (Ozark Cavefish, Gray Bat, Ozark Big-eared Bat, Bald Eagle).
- Private non-industrial landowners and the national forest own most of the forestland in the watershed.
- Resource extraction (e.g., topsoil removal, gravel mining) primarily supports local construction projects.
- The State of Oklahoma lists the Illinois River watershed on its inventory of impaired water bodies.
- The State of Oklahoma also lists the Illinois River watershed on its scenic rivers list.

Further illustration of landuse distribution in the watershed can be seen in Figure 3.





Source: University of Arkansas Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, 2005.
Final PEA for Implementation of the CREP Agreement for the Illinois River Watershed Arkansas

Environmental Factors

Average precipitation in the Illinois River Watershed is approximately 45 inches/year. Landforms are mostly moderately to highly dissected portions of the Ozark Plateau with narrow ridge tops separated by steep v-shaped valleys. Lesser amounts of nearly level undissected plateau also occur. Karst features occur and springs are common. Most of the smaller streams are perennial and the base flow, consisting largely of spring water, is clear and cool. Larger streams and rivers are also clear but their spring-fed base flow is also supplemented by point sources. These streams and rivers support one of the most diverse assemblages of sensitive fish species in the state.

The northern portion of the Illinois River watershed is on the Springfield Plateau in the Ozark Highland. The southern portion is in the Boston Mountains. The mains soils on the broad uplands of the Springfield Plateau are Captina, Tonti, Peridge, Jay, and Taloka. Clarksville, Nixa, and Noark soils are the main soils in the dissected hilly areas. In the stream valleys, Secesh, Elsah, Britwater, and Captina soils are dominant. These soils are underlain by silty deposits or cherty limestone, or by alluvium derived from these sources. Soil associations in the Boston Mountains are underlain mainly by acid sandstone, siltstone, and shale, or by alluvium derived from these sources. Associations in this area are Allen-Hector-Enders, Enders-Allegheny-Hector, Linker-Apison-Hector, Fayetteville-Hector-Mountainburg, and Savannah-Cleora-Razort.

The area includes the Ozark Plateau and the northern portion of the Boston Mountains. Both are situated in the Ozark Mountains Ecoregion. Most of the natural vegetation is Oak-Hickory and Oak-Hickory-Pine forest. Predominant trees on the uplands include black, white, blackjack, northern red, and post oaks, various elms, sugar maple, and shortleaf pine. Dominant trees on floodplains are sycamore, American and red elm, willows, silver maple, box elder, and river birch.

The clear, cool, spring-fed streams are important biological resources in the state and the larger ones are important as recreational resources. The area has well-developed recreational industries centered around canoeing, rafting, swimming, and camping. Air quality is good and although pollution from the upwind population centers of the state is sometimes evident, the area does not experience any air quality alerts. Federally listed endangered species occur in the area including the Ozark Cavefish (Amblyopsis rosae), the Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens), the Ozark Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii ingens), and the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus).

Section 3 - Agricultural-Related Environmental Impacts

Throughout the last several decades, the poultry industry has achieved remarkable success in northwestern Arkansas where many streams and rivers arise, and is a critical part of the State and local economy. Through application of poultry litter to once infertile areas of native pasture or forest, a very successful beef cattle industry has grown alongside the poultry industry. Pastures fertilized with poultry litter are highly productive. Many floodplain forests have been converted to pasture in order to increase forage production, and in the process, many streamside riparian areas have been cleared and converted to pasture as well. Farm demographics for counties within the proposed CREP can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Fai in Demographics – 200.		CCI	Washington
<u>Item</u>	Benton	<u>Crawford</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Number of Farms	2,376	916	2,800
Average Size of Farms (acres)	132	165	131
Average Farm Production Expenses	\$109,775	\$47,955	\$83,630
Average Farm Net Income	\$44,702	\$15,650	\$29,035
Average Age of Operator	53.1	53.4	54.5
Farming is Primary Occupation for Operator	1,307	471	1,525
Farming is not Primary Occupation for Operator	1,069	445	1,275
Operators Male	2,106	827	2,464
Operators Female	270	89	336
Cattle	113,588	30,295	112,650
Chickens	1,221,497	106,143	2,921,380
Swine	Withheld	133	56,051
Sheep	1,636	680	1,314
Turkey	1,435,810	192,687	1,013,421
Horses	3,570	1,519	4,963
Forage (dry tons)	183,362	67,147	222,687
Wheat (bushels)	. and the	162,756	5,672
Vegetables (acres)	1,078	1,745	167
Peanuts (lbs.)			
Grain Sorghum (bushels)	Withheld	146,250	
Corn (bushels)	and two	316,110	440 000
Nursery Stock	Withheld	Withheld	Withheld
Pecans	Withheld	Withheld	116
Soybeans (bushels)	11,630	250,506	
Field & Grass Seed (acres)	1,115	Withheld	137

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) completed a Cooperative River Watershed study for the Illinois River and published a Resource Base Report. The study found the Illinois River and many of the lakes on its tributaries were eutrophic from excessive nutrients (USFS and NRCS, 1992).

The Arkansas Water Resources Center (AWRC) prioritized sub-basins in the watershed in 1996 based on total phosphorus, total nitrogen and total suspended solids (Table 3). Each sub-basin was given a low, medium or high prioritization for each of the three factors (AWRC, 1996).

A USFS comparative assessment of 50 watersheds in Arkansas and Oklahoma estimates potential erosion by land use for the Upper White River watershed. The Upper White River watershed is adjacent to and east of the Illinois River basin. Based on 1992 National Resource Inventory (NRI) data, pasture land had the highest potential erosion rate at 72% compared to other lands (including urban) with a 15% potential erosion rate and forestry with a 2% potential erosion rate. Compared to 1982, potential erosion rates increased for pasturelands and decreased for other lands (USFS, 1999).

Table 3: Sub-Basin Priority Ranking (AWRC, Parker et al., 1996)

	,	Total	Total	Total	
Basin#	Basin Name	Phosphorus	<u>Nitrogen</u>	Suspended Solids	
110	Lake Wedington	Low	Low	Low	
120	Ruby	Low	Medium	Medium	
130	Goose Creek	Medium	Medium	High	
140	Upper Illinois	High	Low	High	
220	Hamstring	Low	Medium	Medium	
221	Clear Creek	Medium	Medium	Medium	
310	Fish	Low	Low	High	
320	Robinson	Medium	Medium	Medium	
330	Wildcat	Low	High	Low	
340	Brush	Medium	High	Medium	
351	Lower Osage	Medium	Medium	High	
352	Upper Osage	High	High	High	
360	Galey	Low	High	Low	
371	Lick Branch	Low	Medium	Low	
372	Little Osage	High	High	High	
380	Spring	High	High	High	
391	Cross	Medium	High	Low	
392	Puppy	High	High	Medium	
410	Muddy Fork	High	High	Medium	
420	Blair Creek	Low	Low	Medium	
430	Lower Moores	Medium	Medium	Medium	
440	Upper Moores	Low	Low	Low	
450	Kinion	High	Medium	Medium	
510	Francis	Low	Medium	High	
520	Gum Springs	Medium	Medium	Medium	
530	Chambers	Low	Medium	Low	
540	Pedro	Low	Medium	Low	
550	Gallatin	Low	Medium	Low	
610	Flint	Low	Medium	High	
620	Little Flint	Medium	Medium	High	
630	Sager	High	Medium	Medium	
710	Cincinnati	High	High	Medium	
720	Wedington	Medium	Medium	Medium	
810	Upper Ballard	High	Low	High	
820	Baron Fork	Low	Medium	Medium	
830	Evansville	Low	Low	Medium	
840	Fly Creek	High	Low	High	

	Priority Ranking Group			
Parameter	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	\underline{High}	
Total Phosphorus, kg/ha/yr	0.05-0.065	0.065-0.95	0.95-1.85	
Total Nitrogen, kg/ha/yr	0-5	<i>5-15</i>	<i>15-52</i>	
Total Suspended Solids, kg/ha/yr	5-75	75-170	170-324	